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To: Keith, Kirsten
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Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings receives 2017 Riley Award.

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Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings Receives 2017 Joseph P. Riley Award from AAF and USCM

Last evening at the Accent on Architecture Gala of the American Architecture Foundation, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings received the Joseph. P. Riley Jr. Award for Leadership in Urban Design.

Conference of Mayors President Mick Cornett presented the award and cited a number of accomplishments in Dallas, all under the leadership of the honoree, Mayor Rawlings.

The AAF award was created in 2010 in conjunction with the United States Conference of Mayors and is given to mayors of the nation who have led their cities toward excellence in design.

Congratulations to Mayor Rawlings. It was an honor to be with you last night and to be a part of, along with AAF President and CEO Ron Bogle, presenting this prestigious award to you and the City of Dallas.

Lansing Michigan Rescinds "Sanctuary" Status After Criticism From Business

The Lansing City Council voted Wednesday to rescind its previous decision to deem itself a sanctuary city. The decision came after council members received a letter from the Lansing Regional Chamber and Michigan Chamber of Commerce. The letter read, "Recent actions of City Council, whether intended or not, have placed an unnecessary target on the City of Lansing while jeopardizing millions of dollars in federal funding that impacts the city budget."

On April 3, the council voted unanimously to label the city a sanctuary city. That status lasted 10 days. The vote was 5-2 on Wednesday to undo the decision.

Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero went on national television to defend his executive order saying, "If Donald Trump or Jeff Sessions think they can increase safety in my community, I'd like to know about it. I'd be happy to have a discussion with them about it. But we are not ready to federalize our local Lansing police department."

Mayor Bernero also said in a Facebook post, "Lansing will remain a welcoming

city that does not demonize or profile any of our residents. We will not be bullied into become a defacto national immigration enforcement agency. We will protect ALL our people while coddling no criminals. We will stand for the America we love."

Congressman Mike Bishop (R) of Rochester slammed the original vote of the Lansing City Council, calling it a "completely reckless decision." Bishop said the unanimous vote showed that every member of that city council "are willing to jeopardize millions of dollars in federal resources."

The Michigan legislature has been active on this issue and these actions in Lansing come from the threat by Attorney General Jeff Sessions stating that federal grants to cities are in jeopardy if they refuse to cooperate with ICE officials.

This sanctuary city example is just one of many. One of the main problems is that the Attorney General has not yet precisely defined what it means when the term "sanctuary city" is used when he threatens cities and states. Mayors continue to say sanctuary cities is not a legal term, it's a political term. We will continue to work with our partners, Major Cities Chiefs Association, Police Executive Research Forum, the National League of Cities, and the National Association of Counties to seek a better definition of the terms used by the Attorney General in his public threats to cities and states.

United Passenger Dragging - City of Chicago Involved

With the tsunami of social media in the case of United Airlines physically dragging of Dr. David Dao off the United flight, the focus has been on the liability of United Airlines. Overlooked has been the role of the City-employed airport security officers. The City Council held a hearing Thursday and at the hearing, a Chicago Alderman said city-employed airport security officers "should not be doing the dirty work for the friendly skies airline."

What is important here is that cities can be liable for lawsuits, costing millions, if the city-employed security officers are used to pull off and injure an unwilling passenger.

This incident hit it big in China with headlines where tens of millions have read or shared reports how Dr. Dao was targeted because he was Chinese. On Tuesday afternoon fo this week, early in the development of the story, the topic attracted 160 million readers on Sina Weibo, China's version of Twitter.

Here's a Fact.

The MOAB, nicknamed "The Mother of All Bombs", GBU-43/13 Massive Ordnance Air Blast bomb measures 30 feet long and 40 inches wide and weighs 21,000 pounds, the largest non-nuclear weapon, and costs $16 million per unit. Deploying isn't easy because our big bomber planes can't manage MOAB's weight and size; it has to be deployed out of the back of a cargo plane with a parachute, pulling it out to let it go. It was dropped for the first time Thursday, it has 11 tons of TNT, gives a blast radius of a mile wide with no radiation effect.

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